

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, and 24-51 will be pending in the present application. Claims 2, 10, 13, and 23 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,305,374 to Zdrojkowski et al. ("the '374 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,715,390 to Hoffman et al. ("the '390 patent"). In addition, claims 32-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the '374 patent in view of the '390 patent in further view U.S. Patent No. 6,094,702 to Williams et al. ("the '702 patent"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons presented below.

Independent claims 1, 12, 22, 32, and 44 have each been amended to include features not present in the cited references. For example, independent claim 1, as amended, recites the further limitations of maintaining a database for a plurality of pressure generating systems, wherein the database includes (a) a product identifier unique to each pressure generating system in the plurality of pressure systems, (b) operating routines available to each pressure generating system in the plurality of pressure generating systems, and (c) external access keys associated with each operating routine. In addition, claim 1 recites updating the database by assigning a new product identifier for an upgraded pressure generating system.

The new product identifier, such as a new serial number, is assigned, for example, to enable the provider of the pressure generating systems to keep track of which pressure generating systems by, in effective, treating an updated pressure generating system as a newly pressure generating system. This helps to ensure that any one upgrade will only work with a particular pressure generating system. Applicant submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest keeping track of updated pressure support systems in this fashion.

For the reasons presented above, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 12, 22, 32, and 44 are not rendered obvious by the cited references. In addition, claims

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2-9, 11, 14-21, 24-31, 33-48, 50 and 51 are also not rendered obvious due to their dependency from independent claims 1, 12, 22, 32, or 44. Claims 2, 10, 13, and 23 have been cancelled rendering their rejection moot. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the above rejections of claims 1-51 be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Note: The Commission is authorized to charge any fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 to deposit account no. 50-0558.